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Collection of audit fees from the mutts and temples.

* 248 *Q.*—SRI T. ANANTHA PAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments be pleased to state what the Government propose to do regarding the continuance of Hindu Religious Endowments Commissioners in view of the decision of the Madras High Court that the Government shall not collect audit fees from the mutts and denominational temples?

THE HON. SRI K. VENKATASWAMI NAIDU :—" The decision of the High Court was that the provisions of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, 1951, relating to the collection of—

(i) contribution, and

(ii) audit fees

from religious institutions were *ultra vires*. The decision of the High Court in respect of audit fees does not affect the continuance of the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (Administration) Department."

SRI T. ANANTHA PAI :—" In view of the decision of the High Court, is it the policy of the Government to recognize the autonomy of maths and denominational temples so that they may make free use of their funds without Government control? "

THE HON. SRI K. VENKATASWAMI NAIDU :—" The matter is now going to a higher Court and we cannot decide until the case is finally disposed of."

MR. SPEAKER :—" As the matter is before the Court, it is *sub judice*. I pass on to the next question."

Representations made by the prisoners of Salem Jail.

* 249 *Q.*—SRI M. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the prisoners of Salem Jail represented any grievances to the Hon. Minister when he visited the jail; and

(*b*) what measures has the Hon. Minister taken to redress their grievances?

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) The Government are considering them."

SRI M. HANUMANTHA RAO :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware that all the grievances represented to him, namely, water scarcity to the extent of allowing a bath only once a week, the Superintendent abusing the prisoners, non-supply of even slates, segregation, etc., continue and that the matter cannot brook any delay? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" No, Sir. Some of the demands have been complied with. Water

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scarcity has ceased after the few showers we had. Regarding lock-up and other things, certain amenities have been granted."

SRI K. RAJAGOPALA RAO :—" May I know what the grievances are that were represented to the Hon. Minister and what steps the Government propose to take to redress them? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" There are about 36 demands. The Government will look into them and grant reasonable demands."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" Are the Government aware that the Superintendent of the Salem Jail, Captain R. Raghunathan, does not allow prisoners even to make representations? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" It is not a fact. In his presence, representations were made. He distributed papers to the prisoners to write their representations leisurely for presenting to me."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know whether, after the Hon. Minister's visit to Salem jail, conditions in Salem jail have become worse, and is the Hon. Minister aware of a statement to this effect published in the Press by some prisoners who were released recently? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" Even an allegation was made that some of the prisoners had gone on a fast. I made enquiries and found that this was not a fact. I can assure the hon. Member that the condition has not deteriorated after my visit."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" In view of the improved conditions in the State in regard to law and order about which we have been speaking in this House and in view of the opinion expressed even by the Hon. Chief Minister that things seem to be more peaceful now than before, will he be pleased to consider the release of all political prisoners immediately and thereby improve the situation further? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" The word 'even' should then be removed from the question. I am quite prepared to say that I am considering the matter. The hon. Member knows it. He should also know that hustling produces no effect on me."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" After the consideration is over, will the Hon. Minister supply us with a list of the grievances and the steps taken to remedy them? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" Certainly it will be considered."

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SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" As there are very serious allegations against the Superintendent of the Salem jail, will the Government institute an enquiry into his official conduct? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" I may tell the House that some mistaken information is given to some of the Members here. No serious allegation was made against the conduct of the Superintendent. The agitation there seems to be rather sentimental and based on some incident which occurred two years back."

Assignment of lands in Kanchi Samudram village.

* 250 Q.—SRI T. NAGI REDDI : Will the Hon. Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether lands bearing Survey Nos. 51-1 and 54-2 (b) of Kanchi Samudram village of Hindupur taluk were assigned to an ex-serviceman in the year 1946;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Government later assigned the very same lands to Sri Kallur Subba Rao as a political sufferer;

(c) whether it is a fact that a subsidy of Rs. 750 had been granted to Sri Kallur Subba Rao for digging a well and that no well had been dug by him; and

(d) whether in this connexion the Government have received any petition from ex-serviceman of Lepakshi village, Hindupur taluk and if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (a) to (d) The Government have no information in the matter, but have called for the same from the Collector, and his reply is awaited."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" In view of the disturbance to law and order in a number of places due to assignment of lands, will the Government ask the District Collectors to stop assignment of lands to political sufferers, if there is any objection from other parties, till an enquiry is made and final orders issued? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I wonder at the question. I said that I had called for a report. I can add nothing useful to what I said."

Number of candidates from Andhra districts who sat for the Public Service Commission Examination.

* 251 Q.—SRI M. VEERABHADRAM : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) how many candidates from Andhra districts applied to sit for the Public Service Commission Examination held in June 1952; and

(b) how many actually sat for the examination?